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**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**

Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing

OR

Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)

Attorney Docket Number	VAC.482
First Named Inventor	HANNIGAN, Raymond
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	/
Filing Date	
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

VACUUM ASSISTED CLOSURE SYSTEM WITH HEATING AND COOLING PROVISION

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

 is attached hereto

OR

 was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 31 March 2000 as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number PCT/US00/08759 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES	Certified Copy Attached? NO
	US		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

 Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

[Page 1 of 2]

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

PTO/SB/02A (11-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032
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DECLARATION**ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)**
Supplemental Sheet
Page 1 of 2

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname	
Charles I.		Biltz, Jr.	
Inventor's Signature			Date
San Antonio Residence: City	TX State	US Country	US Citizenship
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City San Antonio	State TX	ZIP 78209	Country US
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Inventor's Signature			Date
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Mailing Address			
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Name of Additional Joint Inventor, If any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
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Christopher		Fashek	
Inventor's Signature			Date
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Mailing Address 4 Abby Wood			
Mailing Address			
City San Antonio	State TX	ZIP 78257	Country US

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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DECLARATION**ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)**
Supplemental Sheet
Page 2 of 2

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname	
Wayne J.		Schroeder	
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Mailing Address			
City San Antonio	State TX	ZIP 78230	Country US
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname	
Royce W.		Johnson	
Inventor's Signature		Date 25 SEP 01	
Universal City Residence: City	TX State	US Country	US Citizenship
Mailing Address 114 Rimdale			
Mailing Address			
Universal City City	State TX	ZIP 78148	Country US
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname	
Inventor's Signature		Date	
Residence: City	State	Country	Citizenship
Mailing Address			
Mailing Address			
City	State	ZIP	Country

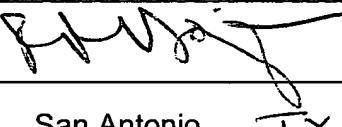
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DECLARATION Utility or Design Patent Application

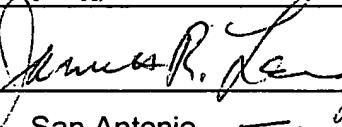
Direct all correspondence to: Customer Number
or Bar Code Label **30159** Correspondence address belowName Kinetic Concepts, Inc., Attn: Nadeem BridiAddress P.O. Box 659508City San Antonio State TX ZIP 78265-9508Country US Telephone 210-255-4543 Fax 210-255-4440

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR: A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Name Raymond R. Family Name Hannigan
(first and middle [if any])Inventor's Signature  Date 9-25-01Residence: City San Antonio State TX Country US Citizenship US

3 Sanctuary Drive

Mailing Address

City San Antonio State TX ZIP 78248 Country USNAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Name James R. Family Name Leininger
(first and middle [if any])Inventor's Signature  Date 9/25/01Residence: City San Antonio State TX Country US Citizenship US

304 Tower Drive

Mailing Address

City San Antonio State TX ZIP 78232 Country US Additional inventors are being named on the 2 supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.